

REMARKS

ELECTION/RESTRICTION

Applicants hereby affirm the election to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-15 and 24-26.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF DRAWINGS

Numbered paragraph 10, on page 1 of the Action, did not indicate whether the drawings were approved. Applicants therefore request that the drawings be approved since no objections thereto were set forth in the Action.

SPECIFICATION

The specification is being amended on page 2 to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner in numbered paragraph 6, on page 3 of the Action.

COMMENT RE CLAIM 5

In response to the Examiner's comment in numbered paragraph 7, on page 3 of the Action, claim 5 has been amended as the Examiner has suggested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 AND 103

Claims 1-3, 9, 10 and 24-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Kirikian U.S. Patent

6,289,544 for the reasons set forth in numbered paragraph 9, on page 4 of the Action.

Claims 1, 9 and 24-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Beer U.S. Patent 4,603,447 for the reasons set forth in numbered paragraph 10, on page 4 of the Action.

Claims 6, 7, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kirikian in view of Ennis U.S. Patent 5,463,788 for the reasons set forth in numbered paragraph 12, on pages 4 and 5 of the Action.

By this amendment, claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13 and 14 have been cancelled.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 4, 5, 8, 11, 12 and 15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this amendment, claims 4, 8, 11 and 15 have been rewritten in independent form and claim 5 made dependent from independent claim 4 and claim 12 remains dependent from independent claim 11.

In addition, claims 24, 25 and 26 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 4 rewritten in independent form and therefore are also believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene W. Stockman".

Gene W. Stockman
Registration No. 21,021
Attorney for Applicant

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 370
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1120
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